Stampedes were a common problem on the Oregon Trail, and in hope of preventing them, many trains did not permit emigrants to bring dogs with them, as the cattle could easily be spooked by a playful or poorly-trained dog.  
  
We hear the Kennedy train had another stampede. They had just buried the baby of the women who died a few days ago and were just digging a grave for another woman who died. She was run over the cattle and wagons when the stampeded yesterday. She lived twenty-four hours. She gave birth to a child a short time before she died. The child was buried with her. She leaves a little two year old girl and a husband. They say he is nearly crazy with sorrow. ... After cattle have been frightened once or twice there is no safety with them. Yesterday there were several loose horses came running up when the train of cattle started pellmell, crippled two men besides killing the woman. ... I never supposed that cattle would run so in yoke and hitched to a wagon.  
  
- Jane Gould, August 3, 1862